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Legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data

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Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to bring to the attention of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management its report on the legal and policy issues to be considered in developing a framework to support global geospatial information management in the public and private sectors, including issues related to authoritative data. The report is available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee of Experts (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html). The Committee of Experts is invited to take note of the report and to express its views on the way forward in addressing the issue.

Summary of the report

At its fourth session, held in New York from 6 to 8 August 2014, the Committee of Experts adopted decision 4/109, in which it welcomed the report on legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data, and noted the increased location-based technological developments around the world that could have an impact on the development of legal and policy frameworks as they apply to the collection, use, storage and dissemination of geospatial information. The Committee of Experts also recognized the concerns expressed by Member States regarding the International Bar Association's proposed convention on geoinformation and agreed that the convention was attempting to address complex geospatial issues that required further careful consideration. Noting that Member States should be exclusively consulted on the formulation and possible establishment of the proposed Convention, the Committee of Experts requested the

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Bureau and the Secretariat to communicate with the Association on the proposed convention and to continue to monitor and inform the Committee and Member States on the emerging legal and policy issues.

In its report, prepared with the assistance of the Centre for Spatial Law and Policy, the Secretariat describes the issues that have an impact on the requisite legal and policy frameworks globally and highlights its engagement with the International Bar Association to draft a convention on geoinformation.